



Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget

18 VAC 90-40 – Regulations Governing Prescriptive Authority for Nurse Practitioners Department of Health Professions, Boards of Nursing and Medicine

April 2, 2002

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 9-6.14:7.1.G of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 25 (98). Section 9-6.14:7.1.G requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

Summary of the Proposed Regulation

The Boards of Nursing and Medicine are proposing to amend the *Regulations Governing Prescriptive Authority for Nurse Practitioners* to reduce the burden of required site visits and clarify requirements that are not easily understood. Specifically, the proposed regulation:

- Reduced the frequency of required site visits from monthly to quarterly;
- Clarifies that the authorization number required to be included on all prescriptions is the nurse practitioner's Prescriptive Authority number and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) authorization number when applicable; and
- Clarifies that nurse practitioners with prescriptive authority are allowed to dispense only manufacturers samples of drugs they have the authority to prescribe.

Estimated Economic Impact

Currently, physicians supervising nurse practitioners are required to conduct a random review of patient charts and a site visit each month. Under the proposed regulations, physicians

and nurse practitioners will be able to determine the frequency of site visits based on factors such as the practice setting, proximity of the physician to the practice of the nurse practitioner, acuity of the patient population, etc. The minimum standard for site visits is reduced from monthly to quarterly. This change will allow more flexibility in scheduling these visits and may free up some physician and nurse practitioner time for direct patient care. Clarifying that monthly chart review is not tied to the site visit may also lead to more consultation-oriented site visits and allow more thorough review of patient charts in a different setting or environment. While there is no empirical evidence currently available to determine how effective site visits are on the quality of care provided by nurse practitioners, the Boards of Nursing and Medicine do not believe the proposed change will have any negative impact.

The remaining proposed changes to this regulation are intended to clarify existing requirements and do not represent a change in current practice. Aside from providing clearer guidance to licensees and possibly reducing the number of phone inquiries handled by agency staff, these changes are not expected to have any economic impact.

Businesses and Entities Affected

The proposed changes to this regulation will affect licensed nurse practitioners with prescriptive authority and the physicians who provide supervision for their practice. There are approximately 1,800 nurse practitioners who hold authorization to prescribe controlled substances in Virginia. Each nurse practitioner has at least one, and sometimes several, supervising physicians.

Localities Particularly Affected

The proposed changes to this regulation are not expected to uniquely affect any particular localities.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed changes to this regulation are not expected to have any significant impact on employment in Virginia.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The proposed changes to this regulation are not expected to have any significant effects on the use and value of private property in Virginia.